From 2011 all new apprentices are being trained under the Victorian Government policy of Competency-Based Completion (CBC).

Students now progress by demonstrating that they have met the competency standards through the training program and related work, not by the amount of time they spend in training.

At Victoria University, the introduction of competency-based completion prompted us to think more broadly about our training.

We decided to refocus our apprenticeships and overhaul how things are done from now on in each of our trade areas.

The result is TradeApps.
TradeApps is Victoria University’s new and unique apprenticeship program. It is guided by competency-based completion, but it includes much more than that. TradeApps is an innovative and flexible approach to trades training, designed to meet the needs of industry and our future workforce.

To reinvigorate our apprenticeships we went back to the basics. We talked with employers. We redeveloped each of our courses to better align with its industry Training Package.

We then created new Training Plans and shifted our processes around. The traditional model of the trade school block is now just one of many options available for when and where apprenticeship training happens.

We’ve also improved how apprentices learn. Instead of making them work through a long list of competencies in a set order, with separate assessments, we’ve combined competencies into clusters of relevant task-based projects.

Through these tasks apprentices can understand and apply what they’re learning. They develop pride in their work. They progress at a pace that is tailored to meet their individual capabilities and availability.

Bringing together competencies into projects means higher quality, complex training that develops job-ready skills, like problem solving.

We’d love to speak with you to explain things further. It’s the first step in an ongoing relationship that is at the core of TradeApps.
Benefits for:

The employer:
- Flexible balance between on-the-tools and off-the-job training
- Tailored and dynamic Training Plan to meet workplace needs and timeframes
- Recognition of your role and responsibilities for training and verifying competencies
- Productivity and skill returns on your training investment
- Simplified paperwork and industry-speak instead of TAFE jargon
- Ongoing conversation with VU and your apprentice

The apprentice:
- Real-life work tasks and relevant skills
- Acknowledgement of what is done and learned at work, or has been previously learned
- Blend of learning and assessments at work, on-campus or online: the right mix for you and your boss
- Clear understanding of what you need to know and do, and when and where you will learn it
- Responsibility for your own progress and pace of the training
- Integrated student support including retention and Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) assistance

The industry:
- Our new model will attract, retain and support the completion of apprentices
- Ongoing industry input into our training
- Enhanced learning and opportunities for progression
- Quality standards and rigorous assessment of apprentices by Victoria University
For general information about TradeApps:

Apprenticeship and Traineeship Support Unit

Web: www.vu.edu.au
Email: TradeApps@vu.edu.au
Phone: 9919 7350

For information about the specific TradeApps programs:

- Bricklaying 9919 8493
- Carpentry 9919 8493
- Commercial Cookery 9919 8763
- Electrical 9919 7140
- Engineering Trades 9919 7134
- Furniture Studies 9919 8408
- Hairdressing 9919 7877
- Joinery 9919 8493
- Painting & Decorating 9919 7300
- Plumbing 9919 7300
- Signs 9919 7300
- Wall & Floor Tiling 9919 8493

For information about the Victorian Government CBC policy visit the Skills Victoria website